

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to air an anti-Kerry documentary on all their stations two weeks before the election demonstrates an obvious problem with media consolidation. A smaller broadcasting company would be more accountable to the communities they serve and unable to globally require a mass airing of politically slanted material.

Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead we get an example of how a large corporation can control the airwaves. We get a corporation deciding what political views are worthy of airing even as they claim it is just entertainment. This is not what we need for our democracy. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. And, it's important in a country that values the democratic process that our elections not be subject to being bought or dangerously influenced by the biggest and richest corporations. What happens when our airways are only owned and operated by one type of group in our society?? The means to being heard becomes compromised and the people who could influence the company are too dispersed geographically to organize and may have no media outlets to turn to.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules. They show why the license granting and renewal process needs to involve close scrutiny on how free our airways remain and how well they remain open to all voices within the nation. Granting media ownership to ever larger corporations and not monitoring how they are used decreases the FCC's ability to ensure fair, open airways that are necessary to preserve our democracy. Thank you.